

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON SHABA

1. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE WAS PROVIDED DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN FOR USE AT NOON BRIEFING, MAY 22.

Q: HOW LONG WILL THE U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE SHABA
OPERATION CONTINUE?

A: THE PRESIDENT ADDRESSED THIS QUESTION YESTERDAY IN
PLAINS. HE SAID "BARRING UNFORESEEN DEVELOPMENTS, I
THINK OUR -- MY -- AUTHORIZATION FOR HELP IS PROBABLY
OVER, BUT WE DON'T EVER KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE
FUTURE."

Q: HOW MANY AMERICANS MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE IN ZAIRE?
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A: WE HAVE HAD MILITARY PERSONNEL ON THE GROUND IN
ZAIRE IN NUMBER SUFFICIENT TO CARRY OUT THE SUPPORT
EFFORT WHICH WAS ANNOUNCED AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS
OPERATION AND WHICH HAS BEEN DESCRIBED IN

SOME DETAIL BY THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT. THAT NUMBER

HAS NEVER EXCEEDED 100. NONE ARE IN OR HAVE BEEN
IN THE COMBAT AREA. ALL WERE GROUND SUPPORT DIRECTLY

CONNECTED WITH DELIVERY OF THE ITEMS WE TRANSPORTED FOR
THE FRENCH AND BELGIANS AS GOVERNMENT SUPPORT.

Q: WHY DID JODY POWELL SAY "UNDER A DOZEN?"

A: HE WAS ASKED ABOUT PERSONNEL REQUIRED TO HANDLE
THE FUEL WHICH WE TRANSPORTED TO KAMINA FOR THE BELGIANS.
"UNDER A DOZEN" IS THE CORRECT DESCRIPTION FOR THOSE
WHO MAN THE EQUIPMENT TO PUMP FUEL. I REPEAT, THE
TOTAL NUMBER OF MILITARY PERSONNEL CONNECTED WITH THE
OPERATION IS UNDER 100.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE MILITARY MISSION IN KINSHASA? HAS
IT GROWN?

A: WE HAD SIX PEOPLE IN OUR ZAIRIAN MAAG TEAM. WE
ADDED ONE TO HELP ABSORB THE ADDITIONAL WORK WHICH
WILL BE PRODUCED BY THE ACCELERATED DELIVERY OF SOME
OF THE ALREADY-APPROVED FOREIGN MILITARY ASSISTANCE
ITEMS FOR THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT.

Q: HOW LONG WILL THE BELGIANS AND FRENCH STAY IN ZAIRE?
WILL WE CONTINUE OUR SUPPORT IF FOREIGN FORCES REMAIN?
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A: I DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE PLANS OF OTHER
GOVERNMENTS. AS FOR OUR ROLE, I REFER YOU AGAIN TO WHAT
THE PRESIDENT SAID IN PLAINS.

Q: WHAT ABOUT REPORTS FOR MOROCCANS ARRIVING IN
KINSHASA?

A: I HAVE SEEN THE SAME PUBLIC REPORTS THAT YOU HAVE.
I DON'T HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Q: WHAT IS THE SITUATION INVOLVING AMERICAN CITIZENS?

A: WE HAVE GIVEN THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS IN KOLWEZI
AS 14. A SHORT TIME AGO, WE LEARNED THAT THERE WAS
APPARENTLY A FIFTEENTH, THE DEPENDENT OF A U.S. RESIDENT.
OF THIS TOTAL OF 15, 13 ARE ACCOUNTED FOR. TWO ARE NOT,
AND WE ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THEM. (WE SENT A CONSULAR
OFFICER FROM LUBUMBASHI AS SOON AS IT WAS POSSIBLE TO
TRY TO LOCATE AMERICANS AND TO SEE THAT THEY WERE ABLE
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EVACUATION.)

Q: WHAT ABOUT REPORTS THAT FRENCH FOREIGN LEGIONNAIRES
KILLED CIVILIANS -- INCLUDING EUROPEANS?

A: I HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THAT SUBJECT.

Q: WERE HOSTAGES TAKEN? HOW MANY?

A: THE RETREATING INVADERS REPORTEDLY TOOK A NUMBER OF
EUROPEANS ALONG AS HOSTAGES. WE HAVE NO HARD INFORMATION
AS TO THEIR NUMBER -- WHICH IS UNDERSTANDABLY IN THE
CIRCUMSTANCES VERY HARD TO COME BY.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON CUBAN INVOLVEMENT?

A: WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT CUBANS ACCOMPANIED
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THE INVADING FORCE. (WHITE HOUSE AND DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMEN SAID ON FRIDAY THAT WE HAVE INFORMATION THAT
THE CUBANS DID TRAIN AND EQUIP THE KATANGANS WHO WERE
INVOLVED IN THE INVASION AND THAT THE INVADERS WERE
FIGHTING WITH SOVIET AND EASTERN EUROPEAN WEAPONS
SUPPLIED THEM BY CUBANS IN ANGOLA.)

Q: CAN YOU REVIEW FOR US THE ENTIRE U.S. SUPPORT ROLE?
NUMBER OF FLIGHTS; WHERE TO ETC,?

A: THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT CAN ADDRESS THIS QUESTION
FOR YOU MORE PRECISELY. FOR GUIDANCE, IT IS MY
UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE WERE THIRTY-THREE U.S. MISSIONS
SCHEDULED IN SUPPORT OF THE FRENCH AND BELGIANS AND
THAT THESE HAVE ALL BEEN COMPLETED. TWENTY-ONE WERE
IN SUPPORT OF THE FRENCH, TWELVE IN SUPPORT OF THE
BELGIANS.

Q: WHY DID YOU TELL LONNIE GLENN'S FAMILY THAT HE WAS
DEAD AND LATER THAT HE WAS UNACCOUNTED FOR (AS A NY
POST STORY ALLEGED)?

A: I CANNOT DISCUSS THE CASE OF SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS
BY NAME. I CAN TELL YOU THAT WE HAVE HAD NO DISCUSSIONS
IN THIS COUNTRY WITH THE FAMILIES OF EITHER OF THE
AMERICANS WHO IS UNACCOUNTED FOR.

Q: WHY DIDN'T YOU TALK TO THE FAMILY. ISN'T IT ROUTINE?

A: IN THE CASE OF ONE OF THE AMERICANS, BY AGREEMENT
BETWEEN OURSELVES AND HIS COMPANY, IT WAS DECIDED THAT
WE WOULD KEEP HIS COMPANY INFORMED. WE HAVE DONE SO --
ACCURATELY.

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